

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image capturing apparatus comprising:
an image generator for capturing a subject and generating image data;
a discriminator for discriminating whether a part of a user is included in an objective area to be captured or not on the basis of a plurality of pieces of image data generated in a time series manner by said image generator; and
a controller for controlling operation of said image capturing apparatus on the basis of a result of discrimination of said discriminator.

2. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
the part of said user is a finger of said user.

3. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
a display for displaying said plurality of pieces of image data as preview display before photographing, wherein
said discriminator discriminates whether the part of said user is included in said objective area or not on the basis of said plurality of pieces of image data to be displayed on said display.

4. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
an indicator for notifying said user, wherein
said controller notifies said user of the result of discrimination by using said indicator when said discriminator discriminates that the part of said user is included in said objective area.

5. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
an image processor for generating image data to be recorded from image data
generated by said image generator, wherein

 said controller controls said image processor so as to generate said
image-data-to-be-recorded obtained by eliminating an area including the part of said
user from said image data generated by said image generator when said discriminator
discriminates that the part of said user is included in said objective area.

6. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
 said discriminator discriminates whether the part of said user is included in said
objective area or not on the basis of a change in the position of a low brightness area in
said plurality of pieces of image data.

7. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:
 a detector for detecting hue information of said low brightness area, wherein
 said discriminator discriminates whether the part of said user is included in said
objective area or not on the basis of a change in the position of the low brightness area
in said plurality of pieces of image data and hue information detected by said detector.

8. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein
 said hue information is information of flesh color.

9. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
 a focusing lens, wherein
 said plurality of pieces of image data is image data generated in a time-series

manner while moving the position of said focusing lens.

10. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said discriminator discriminates whether or not the part of said user is included in said objective area on the basis of a change in contrast in a predetermined area in said plurality of pieces of image data.

11. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said predetermined area is an area positioned in a peripheral portion of said objective area.

12. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising: a detector for detecting hue information of said predetermined area, wherein said discriminator discriminates whether the part of said user is included in said objective area or not on the basis of said change in contrast and said hue information detected by the detector.

13. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said hue information is information of flesh color.

14. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller inhibits image capturing operation of image-data-to-be-recorded when said discriminator discriminates that the part of said user is included in said objective area.

15. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
a display for displaying captured image data, wherein
said controller displays said captured image data on said display for a first
period when said discriminator discriminates that the part of said user is not included in
said objective area, and said controller displays said captured image data on said display
for a second period which is longer than the first period when said discriminator
discriminates that the part of said user is included in said objective area.

16. A method of controlling operation of an image capturing apparatus,
comprising the steps of:

capturing a subject and generating image data in a time series manner;
discriminating whether a part of a user is included in an objective area to be
captured or not on the basis of a plurality of pieces of image data generated in a
time-series manner; and

controlling operation of said image capturing apparatus on the basis of a result
of said discrimination.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein
the part of said user is a finger of said user.